

## 6 HUMAN BEINGS

### 6.1 Introduction

The 2001 Offshore EIS considered the potential impacts of the proposed offshore development on human beings. It also discussed the landfall and the two crossings of Sruwaddacon Bay. The assessment was based on data supplied by the Central Statistics Office as well as government, local and county publications. Since 2001, the characteristics of the receiving human environment have changed. The RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010 provides updated information on the receiving human environment (based on census data from 1996, 2002 and 2006) including demography, employment and community aspects. In addition, in November 2007, Goodbody Economic Consultants investigated the economic benefits of the overall Corrib development in further detail.

### 6.2 Study Methodology

Based on the updated information, a re-assessment of the potential impacts of the offshore development on human beings has been undertaken. Potential impacts associated with crossing the Sruwaddacon Bay are addressed in the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010.

### 6.3 Receiving Environment

An updated review of the receiving environment including population, employment, tourism, and language and culture is provided in the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010.

### 6.4 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

Following installation of the offshore pipeline and subsea infrastructure at the Corrib Field in 2009, remaining offshore works are limited to the installation of the umbilical and any remaining rock placement works. The characteristics of the proposed development are detailed in Sections 2 and 3. Most of the activity will be based from offshore vessels and will therefore have little interaction with local activities. Supporting vessels for works in Broadhaven Bay will operate out of Ballyglass Pier. The installation of the umbilical through Broadhaven Bay, and on to the landfall will result in limited onshore activities in the local area, as described in Section 3.

### 6.5 Predicted Impacts of the Proposed Development

#### 6.5.1 During Construction

Taking the updated information on the receiving human environment into account (as presented in the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010), there are no changes to the predicted impacts arising during the construction phase described in the 2001 Offshore EIS. There may be financial benefits in terms of employment during construction, although the influx of non-local workers may have a short-term, insignificant effect on the local culture and language.

However, it is acknowledged that the duration of impacts is greater than initially anticipated as some construction activity commenced during 2008, continued in the summer of 2009, and will require works over a further season. Some construction-related impacts will therefore have a greater duration than that originally envisaged.

### **6.5.2 During Operation**

Taking the updated information on the receiving human environment into account (as presented in the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010), there are no changes to the predicted impacts arising during the operation phase described in the 2001 Offshore EIS. Operationally, the offshore elements of the development are unlikely to have any impacts on the local population.

At a macro level, the Goodbody report (Goodbody Economic Consultants, 2007) provides an updated assessment of the economic benefits of the Corrib project. The findings of this report confirm the benefits of the overall project as presented in Section 6.5.2 of the 2001 Offshore EIS.

## **6.6 Do-Nothing Scenario**

No change from 2001 offshore EIS. Further consideration of the do-nothing scenario is addressed in Section 13.7.

## **6.7 Mitigation Measures**

### **6.7.1 Employment and Economic Impacts**

As presented in further detail in the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010, the Corrib Gas Partners have implemented a social investment programme to facilitate development opportunities within the Erris region. The social investment programme is a voluntary contribution by the Corrib Gas Partners to the local and wider communities in the vicinity of the Corrib project, and involves working in collaboration with these communities to achieve local social and economic objectives. Funding is available during both the construction and operational phases of the overall development.

Priority is given to those projects in the settlements most affected by the Corrib natural gas field development, i.e. those in close proximity to the terminal site and pipeline.

The social investment programme focuses on financial assistance, although in-kind donations, such as equipment, or volunteers' time and expertise, also play a part. In addition to the direct positive economic and employment impact of the Corrib project, the social investment programme provides indirect economic benefits.

As detailed in the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010, community liaison officers are available during both the construction and operational phases of the proposed development to meet with the public, and provide any information necessary to answer any questions or issues in order to disseminate and circulate information to the community. Regular community update newsletters are circulated and freely available in the community and feature accurate information about the progress of the proposed development. These are also freely available online.

## **6.8 Monitoring**

There has been ongoing liaison between SEPIL, and government and community bodies, which will continue throughout the construction and operational phases of the development to ensure that mitigation measures for the whole project are implemented as appropriate.

## **6.9 Reinstatement and Residual Impacts**

There is no change to the reinstatement and residual impacts as described in the 2001 Offshore EIS.